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In the rural rayon center of Khamenka, in Kirovograd Oblast' of the Ukraine, the DOSAAF had only instructional arms and equipment. For training, it drew on the stores of the Voenkomat, which had a stone or stucco building next to the MVD Headquarters in the center of town. Beyond the MVD Headquarters was the MFB building. In the Voenkomat were stored arms for about 1,000 pre-military trainees or DOSAAF members, together with about one month's supply of ammunition for marksmanship training. Besides rifles there were automatic rifles, submachine guns, grenades and gas masks. There were more gas masks than the military contingent served by the Voenkomat would require. Total guard forces in this town of 15-20,000 were 35-50 with four automobiles, six trucks, and telephone and perhaps radio communications with neighboring towns.

In the Lenin rayon of the city of Kiev (one of ten or a dozen city rayons) the Voenkomat had two buildings with similar military stores. The city had large military forces in and around it, and there were extensive military warehouse areas, such as the one at Tripolye. The needs of DOSAAF units and pre-military trainees could be met in case of shortages from army stocks.

In Confectionary Plant Number five, in Kiev, there were 600 workers, in three equal shifts. There was a DOSAAF room in the rear containing some small-caliber (caliber 4 mm) rifles and enough gas masks for one shift. There were also anti-gas suits for a decontamination crew. A bunker underground in the rear of the plant served for ammunition storage. In 1948, there was a practice alert once a month, in which one shift would work for an hour in gas masks.

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It would be organized in many units, one for each shop and shift. [REDACTED] whether it would be more active, but the DOSAAF would not be used for guarding the plant in peacetime. Permanent guards, many of them women, are organized in factory militia units.

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[REDACTED]

About 200 pre-induction trainees received instruction for a two-week period during the summer. My kolkhoz supplied four or five young men a year. Most of the instruction was drill and rifle marksmanship. One reason that comparatively few received pre-induction training from the Voenkommat was that many young people went into the labor reserve system and from there directly into the Army.

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[REDACTED]

In towns and villages of the Ukraine, 50% of the population would welcome liberating parachutists; in the countryside, 70%. This is true although word has spread of NKVD tactics in the Volga German Republic in 1941. Agents speaking perfect German and wearing German uniforms sought protection in this area. Soviet authorities then inquired as to their whereabouts, and were told nothing. The entire Volga German population was resettled in remote areas.

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